

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A storage control sub-system of a storage control system connected to a host terminal, comprising:

a logical storage device having a logical storage region for storing data in a logical fashion;

a physical storage device, comprising said logical storage device, for storing said logically stored data, in a physical fashion;

a virtual storage unit having a virtual storage region and being implemented in said storage control sub-system in a case where a virtual storage capacity value is established;

a memory for storing said established virtual storage capacity value; and

a storage control section for creating an association between a virtual storage region in said virtual storage unit and a logical storage region in said logical storage device if a read request or write request is received from said host terminal which recognizes said virtual storage unit, and exchanging data between said logical storage region and said host terminal, via said virtual storage region;

wherein said storage control section reports the virtual storage capacity value stored in said memory, to said host terminal, and ensures that, after said host terminal has stored said virtual storage capacity value, said reported virtual storage capacity value is not changed while said virtual storage unit is recognized by said host terminal.

2. The storage control sub-system according to claim 1, wherein

a maintenance terminal for carrying out processing for maintaining said storage control sub-system is connected to said storage control section; and

said storage control section receives a unit preparation request for preparing a new one of said virtual storage units, from said maintenance terminal or an external terminal connected to said maintenance terminal, and in response to said unit preparation request, supplies a graphical user interface comprising at the least an input box for said virtual storage capacity value, to said maintenance terminal or said external terminal, and causes the virtual storage capacity value input to said input box to be stored in said memory, as said established virtual storage capacity value.

3. The storage control sub-system according to claim 1, wherein

said storage control sub-system is capable to form a unit pair consisting of two storage units, one storage unit being taken to be a primary storage unit and the other storage unit being taken to be a secondary storage unit, and is capable to perform a snap shot whereby the data in the primary storage unit is copied to the secondary storage unit;

a plurality of said logical storage devices are provided in said physical storage device;

said plurality of logical storage devices include two or more first logical storage devices having a logical storage region that can be associated with said virtual storage region, and one or more second logical storage devices having a logical storage region that cannot be associated with said virtual storage region;

said one or more second logical storage devices constitute one real storage unit connected to said host terminal; and

said storage control section performs said snap shot by forming a unit pair wherein said real storage unit is taken to be said primary storage unit, and said virtual storage unit is taken to be a secondary storage unit.

4. The storage control sub-system according to claim 3, wherein

if said storage control section forms said unit pair comprising said virtual storage unit and said real storage unit, in a case where said virtual storage capacity value has not been reported to said host terminal, then a value equal to the storage capacity value of said real storage unit is reported to said host terminal as the storage capacity value for said virtual storage unit.

5. The storage control sub-system according to claim 4, wherein

if said storage control section receives a read request or write request for the virtual storage unit from said host

terminal, in a case where said real storage unit which is a partner for said virtual storage unit has not been found, then the storage control section sends a report to the host terminal indicating that the virtual storage unit is in an uninstalled state, and if the real storage unit which is said partner is subsequently found, it reports a value equal to the storage capacity value of said real storage unit, to said host terminal, as a storage capacity value for said virtual storage unit.

6. The storage control sub-system according to claim 1, wherein

said storage control section reports the virtual storage capacity value stored in said memory, to said host terminal, if it has received a prescribed command from said host terminal.

7. The storage control sub-system according to claim 1, wherein

a maintenance terminal for carrying out processing for maintaining said storage control sub-system is connected to said storage control section;

said host terminal is capable to erase said stored virtual storage capacity value, by means of prescribed processing performed by said host terminal; and

if said storage control section, after reporting said virtual storage capacity value to said host terminal, receives an update request for said reported virtual storage capacity

value from said maintenance terminal or an external terminal connected to said maintenance terminal, then by receiving a new virtual storage capacity value from said maintenance terminal or said external terminal, storing the new virtual storage capacity value in said memory and then causing said host terminal to carry out said prescribed processing, while said host terminal and said virtual storage unit are not connected, the new virtual storage capacity value stored in said memory is reported to said host terminal, after the old virtual storage capacity value stored in said host is caused to be erased.